

COUNTY OF LINCOLN

New Mexico Special Meeting Board of County Commissioners

Preston Stone, Chair
Dallas Draper, Vice Chair

Thomas F. Stewart, Member
Elaine Allen, Member
Lynn Willard, Member

Minutes Friday November 6, 2015

Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Lincoln County Commission held at 2:00 P.M. on November 6, 2015 in the County Commission Chambers, Lincoln County Courthouse, in Carrizozo, New Mexico.

1. Call to Order

Chair Stone was absent and Vice Chair Draper attending telephonically appointed Commissioner Stewart to serve as Chair for the Special Meeting.

Chair Stewart called the Special Meeting of the Board of County Commissioners to order at 1:53:50 P.M.

2. Roll Call

Roll Call.

Present: Commissioner Stewart, Commissioner Allen, Commissioner Draper (telephonically), Commissioner Willard.

Absent: Chair Stone.

Others present included Nita Taylor, County Manager; Alan Morel, County Attorney; and Whitney Whittaker, Chief Deputy Clerk.

3. Invocation

The Invocation was presented by Chair Stewart.

4. Pledge of Allegiance

- a. Pledge – US Flag
- b. Salute – NM Flag

5. Approval of Agenda

Motion: Acceptance of the Agenda and authorized the Chair to move items as necessary.

Action: Approve, Moved by Commissioner Allen, Seconded by Commissioner Willard.

Vote: Motion carried by unanimous vote (summary: Yes = 4).

Yes: Commissioner Allen, Commissioner Draper, Commissioner Stewart, Commissioner Willard.

Absent: Chair Stone.

6. Executive Session Pursuant to the Open Meetings Act: Discussion of all Threatened and/or Pending Litigation, Section 10-15-1, Sub-paragraph H(7); and Discussion of the purchase, acquisition or disposal of real property or water rights by the public body, Section 10-15-1, Sub-paragraph H(8).

Motion: To close the meeting for the purposes of an Executive Session to discuss Threatened and/or Pending Litigation pursuant to the Open Meetings Act, Section 10-15-1, Sub Paragraph H.(7) and the purchase, acquisition or disposal of real property or water rights by the public body, Section 10-15-1, Sub-Paragraph H.(8) and as follows:

1. *Cooper, Gale and DeBaca County News v. County of Lincoln, Sheriff of Lincoln County, et al. D-1329-CV-2007-01364. Suit filed: October 15, 2007. Verified Complaint for Declaratory Judgment Ordering Production of Certain Records and Information. Hearing took place Dec. 18, 2013, and Stipulated Judgment was entered June 4, 2014 in favor of Ms. Cooper. Ms. Cooper

filed an appeal June 10, 2014, and Judge John F. Davis was assigned Aug. 3, 2014. Joint Answer Brief of Defendants-Appellees' Steven Sederwall and Rick Virden with Request for Oral Argument filed in the Court of Appeals Sept. 28, 2015.

2. *Greentree Solid Waste Authority v. Lincoln County D-1226-CV-2014-00095*. Suit filed May 1, 2014. Verified Petition for Declaratory and Supplemental Relief: Injunction. County was served May 14, 2014. Mr. Paul Melendres has been retained by the County. Hearing on All Pending Motions took place Nov. 20 before Judge Ritter, who found Mr. Beauvais had a conflict of interest and was disqualified from representing GSWA. GSWA has retained Robert Doughty as new counsel Dec. 13, 2014. GSWA filed its Withdrawal of Plaintiff's Original and First Amended Verified Emergency Motion Seeking Further Relief on Plaintiff's Request for Preliminary Injunction Concerning Rate at which County Will Bill May 7, 2015. Lincoln County filed its Motion to Continue its Motion for Sanctions May 8, 2015 and the Order of Continuance was filed May 11, 2015.

3. **Greentree Solid Waste Authority v. Lincoln County, et. al. D-0101-CV-2013-00104*. Suit filed January 9, 2013. Petition for Declaratory Judgment; Preliminary and Permanent Injunction. Mr. Beauvais filed an appeal Feb. 27, 2014. Ruling on Reconsidering Stay denied by Judge Singleton June 11, 2014. GSWA's Brief in Chief filed Sept. 9, 2014. Record Proper was filed Sept. 25, 2014. Alto Lakes Water and Sanitation District's and Lincoln County's Joint Response Brief was filed with the Court of Appeals Oct. 24, 2014. GSWA filed its Reply Brief Dec. 1, 2014. The case has been submitted to a panel of judges for decision and the County received Notice of Submission from the Court of Appeals Jan. 2, 2015. Mr. Beauvais' Attorney Charging Lien was filed April 29, 2015. Court of Appeals filed their Opinion October 1, 2015 upholding the District Court's granting of Summary Judgment in favor of the County and Alto Lakes Water and Sanitation District. GSWA filed its Petition for Writ of Certiorari Oct. 27, 2015 With New Mexico Supreme Court.

4. *Water Rights Protests: New Mexico State Engineer Hearing Numbers: 14-039 and 14-041*. Protests of Applications 01300-1, 01300-2, 01300-3, 0826-2 into 0275 et. al. and H-272 et al (T) and H-50-1 into H-272 et. al. (T) filed July 15, 2013 pertaining to movement / transfer of water rights from the Hondo Valley to the Village of Ruidoso and the City of Ruidoso Downs. Docketing Order filed Sept. 18, 2014. Kelly Cassels/Sanders, Bruin, Coll & Worley, P.A. has been retained by the County, entered his appearance Sept. 22, 2014 and has responded in behalf of the County.

5. *Wesmax, Ltd. V. Paul Baca, Lincoln County Assessor D-1226-CV-2014-00188* Appeal of the Final Order from Lincoln County Valuation Protest Board. Appeal filed Oct. 8, 2014. Case assigned to Basham & Basham/Dwyer. Record of Appeal and Transcript of Proceedings was filed Oct. 23, 2014.

6. *Edward Rider/Brennon Moorhead v. The Board of County Commissioners, Brack Rains, Matt Christian, Robert Shepperd D 1226 CV 2015-00103* Complaint for Damages and Summons received June 15, 2015. Removed to Federal Court July 7, 2015. Order Granting Defendants' Motion to Dismiss filed Oct. 7, 2015.

7. A. *Preston, DeAnna v. County of Lincoln, Sheriff Robert Shepperd D-1226-CV-2015-00112* Notice of Appeal of Post Disciplinary Hearing filed June 10, 2015. Filed Amended Complaint alleging Civil Rights Violation and Gender Based Discrimination on Oct. 13, 2015.

B. *Preston, DeAnna: Notice of Charge of Discrimination* submitted to the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission July 21, 2015. Mediation was Oct. 29, 2015.

8. *Valle del Sol v. Naron, et. al. D-1226-CV-2015-00166* Complaint to Enforce and Collect Upon Promissory Note and to Foreclose Mortgage upon Real Property filed Sept. 24, 2015.

9. **Cody McMurray v. Board of County Commissioners, et al - D 1226 CV 2015-00170 Div. III-* Complaint for Damages filed Sept. 28, 2015 by Attorney W. Chris Nedbalek alleging violation of Civil Rights.

10. **Bill Turner v. Board of County Commissioners, et al - Cause No. 2:15-CV-00827-LAM-SMV -* Complaint for Damages filed Sept. 28, 2015 by Attorney W. Chris Nedbalek alleging violation of Civil Rights.

Tort Claims Notices Received or Threatened

2015

Cherry, Doris – Tort Claim Notice posted in Lincoln County News Jan. 1, 2015 stating possible Civil Rights Violation lawsuits regarding alleged Americans with Disabilities Act non-compliance in remodeling the Lincoln County Courthouse buildings.

McDaniel, Carl – Tort Claim Notice received Jan. 23, 2015 from Attorney John Sugg alleging violation of the Unfair Trade Practices Act and engaging in unfair or deceptive trade practices and/or unconscionable trade practices by GSWA.

UNM Hospital-Prins, Chad – Tort Claim Notice received Feb. 26, 2015 in which UNM Hospital seeks reimbursement of expenses incurred while Lincoln County Detention Center inmate Prins was on furlough.

Sehorn, Sean M. – Tort claim Notice received March 2, 2015 from Attorney Gary Mitchell alleging Lincoln County Detention Center failed to provide adequate medical treatment during inmate Sehorn's incarceration.

Lavin, Erica L. and Rathgeber, Jack – Tort Claim Notice received March 2, 2015 from Attorney Gary Mitchell alleging Constitutional Rights were violated resulting in wrongful termination.

Hanley, Constance – Tort Claim Notice received March 20, 2015 from Attorney John Sugg alleging violations of 42 USC section 1983, malicious prosecution, failure to investigate, defamation of character, libel and abuse of process.

Capitan Iron Mine through A. Blair Dunn – Threatened Litigation on April 1, 2015 against the County of Lincoln should Lincoln County require Capitan Iron Mine comply with Lincoln County Mine Ordinance 2009-01.

Chavez, Billy – Ordinance Violation: 2009-03 Regulating Refuse, Solid Waste and Litter in the County. March 10, 2015 certified letter mailed to Mr. Chavez giving him 30 days to dispose of debris on his property at 142 White Cat Road, San Patricio (Section 26, Township-10S, Range 16E, tract of land lying in the NE 4SE4). April 10, 2015 the property was inspected and noted no progress had been made.

Culp, Susan v. LCMC/Lincoln County: Tort Claim Notice received May 4, 2015 from Attorney Katherine Channing Roehl/Roehl Law Firm alleging medical malpractice, negligent supervision, negligent credentialing by staff, administrators and doctors at LCMC on or about March 3, 2015 during Ms. Culp's gall bladder removal surgery.

Reyes, Roberto – Tort Claim Notice received May 15, 2015 from Attorney Timothy White/Valdez White Law Firm alleging illegal seizure, illegal search, illegal imprisonment and wrongful conduct of the Lincoln County Sheriff's Department.

Torres, Leopoldo: Tort Claim Notice received June 4, 2015 from inmate Torres alleging inmate-initiated attack on inmate Torres at Lincoln County Detention Center.

Wallace, Stephen: Tort Claim Notice received June 11, 2015 from Attorney Gary Mitchell alleging deprivation of Constitutional rights due to false incarceration at Lincoln County Detention Center without proceeding with a timely extradition.

Rodriguez, Victor – Tort Claim Notice received July 13, 2015 from Attorney W. Chris Nedbalek alleging hostile treatment from fellow employees while employed at Lincoln County Detention Center.

Prudencio, Fabian and Corinne – Tort Claim Notice received July 24, 2015 from Attorney Daniel P. Ulibarri alleging negligence, personal injury, spoliation, indemnification and property damage against the County of Lincoln.

Yates, Barbara – Verbal Threat against the County issued July 21, 2015 due to ongoing flooding at her private property.

Davis, Jack and Rema – Verbal Threat against the County issued July 21, 2015 due to ongoing flooding at their private property.

Capitan Iron Mine – Tort Claim Notice received Sept. 24, 2014 via email from A. Blair Dunn, alleging County trespass on private property.

Estate of Viola/Orlando Montes – Tort Claim Notice received Sept. 28, 2015 from Attorney J. Robert Beauvais alleging vender was allowed onto Lincoln County Fairgrounds without necessary safety equipment.

***L. Phillip Onsrud** – Tort Claim Notice received Nov. 3, 2015 via email alleging lack of medical care while incarcerated in Lincoln County Detention Center.

2014

Ramos, Aaron – Tort Claim Notice received from Mr. Ramos March 18, 2014 alleging his rights were violated during incarceration at Lincoln County Detention Center. Mr. Ramos alleges damages by not being granted detainee to detainee correspondence.

Millerden, Kenneth and Anita – Tort Claim Notice received May 9, 2014 from Attorney Victor F. Poulos alleging negligence from staff at Lincoln County Medical Center during prepartum care for their infant son.

Ogden, John D – Tort Claim Notice received May 26, 2014 alleging mistreatment while incarcerated at Lincoln County Detention Center on March 11, 2014.

Rounds, Christopher – Tort Claim Notice received June 4, 2014 alleging being held in Lincoln County Detention Center without being advised of his charges.

Herbert, Crystal – Tort Claim Notice received June 23, 2014 from Attorney Matthew Coyte/Coyte Law alleging false imprisonment, due process violations, unlawful detention of a minor, emotional distress.

Class Action – Tort Claim Notice received June 23, 2014 from Attorney Ryan Villa/Cooper Law Firm alleging false imprisonment, false arrest, deprivation of rights at Lincoln County Detention Center that arise with Immigration and Customs Enforcement charges.

Atwell, Stacey – Tort Claim Notice received June 25, 2014 alleging unlawful seizure of her two minor children during a request for a deputy to assist in keeping the peace.

McGarry, Sean – Tort Claim Notice received July 25, 2014 from Attorney S. Doug Jones Witt alleging wrongful arrest, false imprisonment, malicious prosecution, intentional or negligent infliction of emotional distress, abuse of process, wrongful termination and retaliatory discharge regarding discharge from the Capitan Police Department.

Ramos, Aaron – Tort Claim Notice received August 7, 2014 alleging lack of Due Process for inmates at Lincoln County Detention Center.

Lambert, David and Bonnie - Tort Claim Notice received Sept. 8, 2014 from Attorney W. Chris Nedbalek alleging damage to Lambert property due to Mr. Rodney Bunsen using his own equipment to alter a platted County right of way without the authorization or knowledge of the County.

Rider, Edward Allen and Moorhead, Brennon – Tort Claim Notice received Oct. 20, 2014 by Attorney W. Chris Nedbalek alleging Lincoln County Narcotics Enforcement Unit officers destroyed items in a home.

Caughron, Brittany and Anderson, Amie – Tort Claim Notice received Oct. 24, 2014 by Attorney W. Chris Nedbalek alleging overcrowding of Lincoln County Detention Center as a violation of 8th Amendment Rights.

Ryen, Allen - Tort Claim Notice received Oct. 27, 2014 by Attorney W. Chris Nedbalek alleging Mr. Ryen was exposed to unsanitary conditions at Lincoln County Detention Center.

Inmate Group – Tort Claim Notice received Oct. 27, 2014 by Attorney W. Chris Nedbalek alleging overcrowding and unsanitary conditions at Lincoln County Detention Center.

Caughron, Brittany and Anderson, Amie – Tort Claim Notice received Nov. 14, 2014 by attorney W. Chris Nedbalek alleging inadequate medical care and overcrowding at Lincoln County Detention Center.

Inmate Group – Tort Claim Notice received Nov. 14, 2014 by attorney W. Chris Nedbalek alleging overcrowding and unsanitary conditions at Lincoln County Detention Center.

Long, Cameron – Tort Claim Notice received Nov. 14, 2014 by attorney W. Chris Nedbalek alleging mistreatment by an Officer with Adult Probation and Parole.

McClarnon, Brian – Tort Claim Notice received Nov. 14, 2014 by attorney W. Chris Nedbalek alleging violations of U.S. Constitutional Amendment rights.

Diana Martwick, 12th Judicial District Attorney – Tort Claim Notice received Nov. 25, 2014 alleging lack of adequate office space provided by the County of Lincoln.

Inmate Group – Tort Claim Notice received Dec. 22, 2014 by attorney W. Chris Nedbalek alleging inmates were mistreated at Lincoln County Detention Center.

2013

Harrisburg Documents- Attempts to recover Lincoln County documents illegally taken from the county. County Clerk Rhonda Burrows has been in contact with Harrisburg, PA in recovery efforts.

Action: Approve, **Moved by** Commissioner Allen, **Seconded by** Commissioner Willard.

Vote: Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote (summary: Yes = 4).

Yes: Commissioner Allen, Commissioner Draper, Commissioner Stewart, Commissioner Willard.

Absent: Chair Stone

Chair Stewart recessed the Regular Meeting and convened the Closed Session at 2:00:38 P.M.

Chair Stewart recessed the Closed Session and reconvened the Regular Meeting at 2:54:50 P.M.

Commissioner Willard attested that matters discussed in the closed meeting were limited to those specified in the motion for closure or in the notice of separate closed meeting.

7. Discussion/Potential Action Regarding Transition of Collection of Solid Waste from GSWA to Lincoln County:

Motion: Authorize the Manager to negotiate and purchase new and used solid waste equipment pursuant to the procurement code not to exceed \$616,000, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Commissioner Stewart, **Seconded by** Commissioner Allen.

Vote: Motion carried by unanimous vote (summary: Yes = 4).

Yes: Commissioner Allen, Commissioner Draper, Commissioner Stewart, Commissioner Willard.

Absent: Chair Stone.

Motion: Direct the Manager to enter into a new, separate agreement with the New Mexico Finance Authority to service prior obligations of the County's Environmental Gross Receipts Tax, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Commissioner Stewart, **Seconded by** Commissioner Willard.

Vote: Motion carried by unanimous vote (summary: Yes = 4).

Yes: Commissioner Allen, Commissioner Draper, Commissioner Stewart, Commissioner Willard.

Absent: Chair Stone.

Motion: Authorize the Manager to begin negotiations for the use of compactor lease sites with existing property owners or the State of New Mexico; and authorize the Manager to negotiate

for the continuation of site utilities, **Action: Approve, Moved by Commissioner Stewart, Seconded by Commissioner Allen.**

Vote: Motion carried by unanimous vote (summary: Yes = 4).

Yes: Commissioner Stewart, Commissioner Allen, Commissioner Draper, Commissioner Willard.

Absent: Chair Stone.

8. Discussion/Potential Action Regarding Lease Negotiations with Presbyterian Healthcare Services for Lincoln County Medical Center.

Ms. Taylor introduced Newpoint Healthcare Advisor Chairman Joseph Lupica to discuss options for the renegotiation of the Lincoln County Medical Center lease with Presbyterian.

Mr. Lupica discussed his firm's credentials as an advisory firm dedicated to strategizing options for process improvement appropriate for each client.

Chair Stewart summarized the revenues of the voter imposed Mill Levy related to hospital funding. Chair Stewart reminded the County could no longer utilize Mil Levy funds for capital improvements due to a recent Supreme Court decision.

Peggy Altamura, RN, MBA speaking as a principal consultant for Newpoint discussed potential recommendations and possible solutions. Ms. Altamura noted a quick glance at local hospital data indicated a decline in surgical procedures. Ms. Altamura stated Newpoint analyzed local data to assist with lease negotiations.

Commissioner Willard stated LCMC had shown transparency while working with the County and discussed LCMC's margin of profitability as included in various hospital presentations.

Commissioner Draper was excused from the meeting at 3:57:47 P.M.

Mr. Lupica provided a presentation on strategies utilized by his corporation to develop solutions which best suit a client's needs.

Motion: Direct the County Attorney and Manager to work with Newpoint to identify issues regarding the hospital lease with Presbyterian and present findings for validation and/or approval, **Action: Approve, Moved by Commissioner Stewart, Seconded by Commissioner Willard.**

Vote: Motion carried by unanimous vote (summary: Yes = 3).

Yes: Commissioner Stewart, Commissioner Allen, Commissioner Draper, Commissioner Willard.

Absent: Chair Stone.

Excused: Commissioner Draper.

9. Signing of Official Documents:

10. Next Meetings:

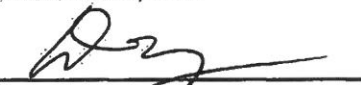
Regular Meeting- November 17, 2015

11. Adjournment:

There being no further business to come before the Board of County Commissioners, Chair Elect Stewart adjourned the meeting at 4:12:24 P.M.

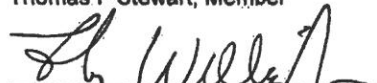
County of Lincoln
Board of County Commissioners


Preston Stone, Chair


Dallas Draper, Vice Chair


Elaine Allen, Member


Thomas F Stewart, Member


F Lynn Willard, Member

ATTEST:


Rhonda Burrows, County Clerk

December 15, 2015
Date Approved

